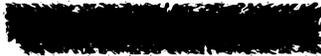


Advocacy Writing

Assignment #2



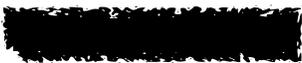
HP601

Emily Bergeron

11/12/18

To the Editor:

Urban renewal became popular in the 1950's as a way to clean up the slums in major cities of blighted areas. Little to no thought was given to what was to become of the displaced residents who were usually poor and had no means to find alternate housing. Frankfort was no different. In the mid 1950's, Frankfort's downtown area usually referred to as "Crawfish Bottom" or "The Craw" was targeted for urban renewal. The city began buying up the land in this area in the late 1950's and devised a plan to replace the dirty, run down portions of town with a "tall, white shining tower on the hill." The city wanted this "tower" so gleaming white that an additive was used in the concrete mix to make it as white as possible. Without knowing it, the contractors had ultimately put a curse on the building. That additive would attack the rebar and allow the concrete to start falling off the building in less than 50 years. The Capital Plaza Tower was imploded this past March. Was the building shedding concrete at an amazing rate of decay now any better than the older buildings that it replaced? Was this a sort of karma for the area? Will the building that is currently being built at a ridiculous pace to meet an unrealistic deadline on the dust of the tower be any sturdier or longer lasting than the one before it? Only time will tell. I would like to see more emphasis put on saving buildings that are in good repair and not wiping whole city blocks clean. It is also important for us to build quality buildings when we develop new pieces of property instead of throwing up a structure to meet unrealistic deadlines. The state will hold a 30 year lease on this building and then the property will convert to state ownership. The life expectancy for this building is only 25 to 35 years. Then what?



I would send this to the State Journal in Frankfort, Ky because it has affected the residents of this town for over 50 years. A good number of these are still alive to see the building come down and I wonder what they were feeling knowing that their homes were destroyed for this building and now the building is gone.